

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, IR

SUBJECT: GOI REQUEST FOR HF DTS RADIO SPECIFICATIONS

ATHENS FOR ATO; BEIRUT FOR RCO

REF: TEHRAN 6533

1. DEPARTMENT RECORDS INDICATE GOI AWARE OPERATION DTS HF RADIO STATION IN TEHRAN FOR SOME TIME. IN EARLY 1963 EMBASSY BROUGHT UP MATTER RECIPROCAL RADIO RIGHTS AGREEMENT WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOREIGN MINISTRY (DR. ANSARI) WHO AT THAT TIME WAS RELUCTANT TO CONCLUDE FORMAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S. GOI EXPLAINED THIS WAS BASED UPON PREMISE IF IRAN MADE SUCH AN AGREEMENT, IT MAY BE DISADVANTAGEOUS SINCE THEY MAY BE REQUESTED FORMALLY TO ACCORD SIMILAR FACILITIES FOR THE SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST-BLOC NATIONS.

2. DR. ANSARI EXPLAINED FURTHER SINCE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING RADIO FACILITIES
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IN THEIR WASHINGTON EM0ASSY, AND SINCE THE GOI WHICH KNEW

OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE RADIO TRANSMITTER IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, TEHRAN, HAD TACITLY AGREED TO THE OPERATION BY NOT RAISING OBJECTIONS, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR GOI CHANGE STATUS QUO.

3. BASED UPON THESE VIEWS, DEPARTMENT ACCEPTED STATUS QUO OF STATION AND NO FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS OBTAINED.

4. DEPARTMENT RECORDS ALSO INDICATE NO APPROACH WAS EVER MADE BY IRANIAN EMBASSY FOR PERMISSION TO OPERATE RADIO STATION IN WASHINGTON ALTHOUGH EMBASSY KNOWN TO HAVE SUCH A STATION INSTALLED THEIR PREMISES AND USED FROM TIME TO TIME.

5. VIEW FOREGOING, DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION IF EMBASSY WISHES RESPOND TO NOTE FURNISHING GENERAL TECHNICAL DATA ON EMBASSY DTS RADIO. BELIEVE GOI MORE INTERESTED OBTAINING TECHNICAL DATA FOR PTT PURPOSES AND RECORDS THAN POLITICAL ASPECTS. SINCE THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR OPERATION THERE IS NO NEED ATTEMPT TO COVER UP.

6. SHOULD GOI QUESTION OR CHALLENGE EMBASSY RADIO OPERATION, POST SHOULD ADVISE WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OUTLINED ABOVE AND IF GOI WISHES RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION DO SO. THIS WOULD ALSO "LEGALIZE" IRANIAN TRANSMITTER IN WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO COMPLAINTS, OR REPORTS OF INTERFERENCE OR OTHER PROBLEMS.

7. IF FONMIN VIEW RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT FAVORABLE, THEY SHOULD INSTRUCT THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY TO MAKE APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT. THERE ARE CERTAIN TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH APPLY ALL EMBASSY RADIO STATIONS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN WASHINGTON, MAINLY LOW-POWER LIMITATION. THESE CONDITIONS SHOULD BE FULLY EXPLAINED BEFORE FORMAL REQUEST MADE.

8. IN SUMMARY, POST SHOULD USE OWN DISCRETION IN MAKING FORMAL REPLY TO FONMIN, FOLLOWING GUIDANCE CONTAINED CONFIDENTIAL

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HEREIN. PLEASE PROVIDE DEPARTMENT COPIES ALL NOTES EXCHANGED.

9. FOR ATO ATHENS: PLEASE PROVIDE SOONEST TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN ALL NECESSARY TECHNICAL DATA REGARDING EMBASSY TRANSMITTER WHICH MAY BE NEEDED SHOULD POST RESPOND TO NOTE. PLEASE INFO DEPARTMENT.

10. FYI: SINCE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY IN
TEHRAN OR IRAN ARE NOT COVERED UNDER DTS AGREEMENT/
UNDERSTANDING, ETC., DO NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO THEM
OR TIE THEM INTO THIS DISCUSSION OR PROBLEM. WE WISH
TO RESTRICT ACTION TO DTS RADIO STATION OPERATION. RUSH

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